

IN THE CLAIMS:

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CLAIMS WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (previously presented) A method of extracting organic substances present in coral, comprising treating the coral with a fluid or a mixture of fluids in a supercritical state without modifying the crystalline structure of said coral, at a temperature of less than 270°C, and at a pressure which is much higher than the critical pressure of said fluid or mixture of fluids.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which said fluid is selected from the group consisting of ethanol and acetone.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which said fluid is ethanol.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3, in which the coral treatment pressure is in the range 300 MPa to 450 Mpa.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, in which the coral treatment temperature is in the range 240°C to 260°C, and the coral ~~treatment~~ is treated for a period ~~is~~ in the range 15 min to 240 min.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the mixture of fluids is an ethanol and carbon dioxide mixture, and the coral treatment pressure is in the range 30 MPa to 50 MPa.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, in which the coral treatment temperature is of the order of 80°C to 100°C.

8. (previously presented) Coral obtained by the method according to claim 1.

9. (original) A bone substitute fabricated from coral in

accordance with claim 8.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which said mixture of fluids is selected from the group consisting of ethanol and carbon dioxide mixtures, and acetone and carbon dioxide mixtures, the critical temperature of said mixture being less than 270°C.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3, in which the coral treatment pressure is in the range 350 MPa to 400 MPa.

12. (previously presented) A method of extracting organic substances present in coral, comprising treating the coral with a fluid or a mixture of fluids in a supercritical state without modifying the crystalline structure of said coral, at a temperature of less than 270°C and at a pressure which is at least 3 times higher than the critical pressure of said fluid or mixture of fluids.